

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
FILE
memorandum

DATE March 3, 1992

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Red Wolf Coordinator, FWS, Asheville, NC

SUBJECT: Monthly activity report - February 1992

TO: Regional Director, FWS, Atlanta, GA (FWE/SE)
Attention: Mr. Dave Flemming

I revised the intra-agency agreement with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to incorporate the 1992 budget distribution and submitted it to CGS for processing. I submitted a draft letter for the Regional Director's signature agreeing to conditions specified by the National Parks and Conservation Association in order for them to donate \$7,500 to the red wolf fund maintained by the Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) specifically for the depredation fund in the Smokies. A donation of \$87.50, that was a result of a painting auctioned off at the Smoky Mountains Winterfest Wildlife Week in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, was forwarded to the Foundation for the red wolf fund. I prepared and submitted a draft congressional regarding the Smokies, which was again inspired by the Tennessee Farm Bureau. I drafted a news release concerning the recapture of the adult male that had been released in the Smokies stating that it was our intent not to rerelease him and laying out our plans for the three remaining released animals. A decision was made not to put out a news release but to put out another "update" containing the information. Requests for the environmental assessment are still trickling in; I sent out four this month.

I submitted a draft letter for the Regional Director's signature soliciting input and cooperation from the U.S. Forest Service in the red wolf recovery program. I sent letters to the captive-breeding coordinator authorizing him to (1) undertake all needed captive-breeding activities, including delegation to other facilities, and (2) expend \$1,000 for reimbursement to Russian biologists for gathering and supplying data to Ron Nowak for use in taxonomic studies.

Newspaper articles concerning the in-house proposal to explore the possibility of expanding the Alligator River project westward raised some concerns locally. As a result, I sent letters to the county commissioners in Hyde, Washington, and Tyrrell Counties explaining the situation. I also responded to a student's request concerning research opportunities at Alligator River.

I gave a presentation on the red wolf program to the Gaston County Audubon Society. I sent information in response to an inquiry regarding the possibility of a reintroduction into Arkansas. Other general correspondence included several responses concerning employment possibilities and write-ups on the Alligator River and Smokies projects for a Fish and Wildlife Service accomplishment report for the Secretary. Requests for general and technical reports and information continue at a steady pace, four or five this month.

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REV 1-80
GSA FPMR 41 CFR 101-11.6
5010-114

Following are changes in the locations of the red wolf population that occurred this month.

A. Wild Populations

1. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge - One animal with a neck irritation was brought into captivity in January and was treated. This animal was rereleased on March 3, 1992. There was an error in the December 1991 report that needs correcting. Instead of possibly 27 animals in the wild, there are 22 (7 males, 14 females, 1 unknown).

B. Captive Propagation

1. Graham, Washington, Facility - Three old males, not capable of reproduction, were euthanized to provide needed pen space, and another male died of unknown causes. That leaves 36 wolves (15 males, 21 females).
2. Chaffee (Fresno) Zoo, California - This facility contains 2 male and 3 female juveniles instead of an adult pair as indicated in the December 1991 report.
3. Point Defiance Zoo, Washington - An old female was euthanized for needed pen space, leaving 7 wolves (2 males, 5 females).
4. Birmingham, Alabama - The animal that escaped last month was recaptured on February 1, 1992. This was a very bad situation that displayed tremendous incompetence in personnel at the Birmingham Zoo. Details are contained in attachments to this monthly report. This situation has generated several news media inquiries, as well as inquiries from the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), and a lot of correspondence and telephone conversations with Birmingham officials. Apparently this facility was already under investigation by the AAZPA. As a likely result, the position of director, which had been vacant for about 9 months, was filled within a couple of days of the incident, by a person not currently employed by the zoo.

C. Total - 151 wolves (64 males, 86 females, 1 unknown).

V. Gary Henry

cc:

Mr. Roland Smith, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Tacoma, WA
Refuge Manager, Alligator River NWR, FWS, Manteo, NC
Refuge Manager, Cape Romain NWR, FWS, Awendaw, SC
Refuge Manager, St. Vincent NWR, FWS, Apalachicola, FL
Mr. Chris Lucash, FWS, c/o Cades Cove Ranger Station, Townsend, TN
Field Supervisors, All Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Field Offices,
Southeast Region